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May 1, 1956
NUMBER C-5148.4

Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Responsibilities of the Assistant to the Secretary
of Defense (Special Operations)

References: (a) SecDef Memorandum to Multiple DoD Addresses,
"Reorganization-Office of Special Operations,
CSD", July 15, 1953
(b) DoD Directive 5105.7, "Departmental Support
for DoD Intelligence Responsibilities",
June 29, 1954

I. PURPOSE

This directive reissues References (a) and (b) with revisions as are currently appropriate to define the organization, responsibilities, and relationships of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations).

II. BACKGROUND

- A. Each of the Military Departments and the Joint Chiefs of Staff organizations have under their direction and control organizations concerned with intelligence policy and production, counterintelligence, communications security, CIA affairs, and psychological warfare. These organizations have the primary responsibility of satisfying the requirements of the Department or Agency of which they are part.
- B. In the implementation of his responsibilities as Head of the Department of Defense, however, the Secretary of Defense has a requirement for staff participation and representation in policy matters concerning the fields enumerated under III.A. below. A staff channel is required, in order that he shall have the direction, authority, and control as provided by law. Moreover, in connection with his responsibilities under NSCID No. 9, Revised, NSCID No. 17, and NSC 168, the Secretary requires a means through which to exercise the authority vested in him.

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- C. There is no requirement for, nor does this directive authorize, the establishment of an intelligence-producing organization within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. With respect to the production of intelligence for the Secretary of Defense and other officials within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the intelligence organization of the JCS is the normal producing agency and nothing herein is to be construed as restricting or altering normal channels or organization. In order to avoid duplication, the Office of Special Operations will normally coordinate OSD requests for intelligence prior to their transmission to the JCS intelligence organization.

III. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. In addition to unspecified or collateral duties as may be assigned the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations), following are enumerated his areas of interest and responsibility:
1. Intelligence, including overt, covert, and that derived by electronic means,
 2. Counterintelligence (except internal security matters falling within the areas of responsibility assigned to the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC) and the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS),
 3. Communications security,
 4. All CIA affairs in which the Secretary of Defense has an interest or responsibility,
 5. Department of Defense psychological warfare affairs, including United States Information Agency (USIA) matters in which the Secretary of Defense has an interest or responsibility,
 6. All matters relating to and including Staff support for the Departmental representative on NSC 5412 matters.
- B. With respect to the areas of responsibility enumerated above, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) shall have the following specific duties:
1. To advise and assist the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on all such matters affecting the Department of Defense, and to serve as the principal policy advisor thereon.

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2. Through staff level collaboration, to maintain over-all cognizance of such activities within the Department of Defense and between Defense activities and other departments and agencies in order to assure the continuous development of effective and integrated Department of Defense policy.
3. To provide, in addition to Service and Joint Staff representation, the principal staff representation for the Secretary of Defense with other departments and agencies of the U. S. Government in all such matters either through his own office or by arrangements with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretaries of the Military Departments for the assignment of representatives from their respective organizations.
4. To exercise the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense by NSCID No. 9 (Revised) and by NSC 168 which relates to the direction and control of the operations of the National Security Agency.
5. To exercise monitorship for the Secretary of Defense over the electronics intelligence responsibilities and activities provided for under NSCID No. 17 which have been delegated to the Secretary of the Air Force.

IV. RELATIONSHIPS

- A. For each of the fields enumerated in III.A., the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force are requested to continue the present designation of an Under or Assistant Secretary or another appropriate official as having functional responsibility for matters within that field in their respective departments; and for those fields where such an official is not currently so designated, it is requested such designation be made. These individuals, through collaboration and close contact with the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations), will provide for the active participation of the resources of the respective Military Departments in the Department of Defense activities in these fields.
- B. For each of the fields enumerated in III.A., above, the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff is requested to continue the present designation of an officer of General or Flag rank serving in the Joint Staff as the specific point of contact within the Joint Staff for, and to provide military advice to the Secretary of Defense in respect to, matters in each field; and for those fields where such an officer is not currently so designated, it is requested such designation be made. These officers will facilitate through the medium of staff level collaboration and of close contact with the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

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(Special Operations) the provision of military advice and support in such matters not requiring the formal consideration and advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

- C. Counterintelligence responsibilities shall apply to all aspects of counterintelligence in which the Secretary of Defense has interest, authority or responsibility; but shall not apply to internal security, plant security, personnel security, or domestic counterintelligence matters coming within the purview of the IIC and ICIS.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. In the performance of his responsibilities, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) will utilize directly the advice, assistance, and appropriate facilities of the Military Departments and the Joint Chiefs of Staff organizations. Such utilization shall not, however, be construed or so utilized as to circumvent the existing command channels through the Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, or to deprive the Military Departments or other agencies of the Department of Defense of any privilege, responsibility, or representation prescribed by law or National Security Policy.
- B. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) is hereby delegated the authority to examine and obtain such records, reports and information from the Military Departments and other agencies of the Department of Defense as are necessary to carry out his responsibilities. Those Departments and agencies are requested to establish the necessary staff arrangements to provide such reports and information.
- C. This directive is effective immediately and each Military Department and other agency of the Department of Defense will keep the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) currently informed of all implementing actions taken in connection with the provisions of this directive.

VI. RESCISSIONS

This Directive supersedes and rescinds References (a) and (b).


Deputy Secretary of Defense